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1 PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

2 ON REAPPORTIONMENT

3 PUBLIC HEARING

4  
5 DATE: SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2021

6 TIME: 2:00 PM CST

7 LOCATION: FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

8  
9  
10 Senator Jim McClendon, State Representative

11 Chris Pringle, Attorney Dorman Walker are in

12 attendance virtually.

1                   SENATOR MCCLENDON: Welcome,  
2       everybody. Thank you for joining us today.  
3       This is the 27th of 28 public hearings we  
4       have held around the state of Alabama. My  
5       name is Jim McClendon, and I am the Senate  
6       Chair of Redistricting. On my right is  
7       Representative Chris Pringle, who is the  
8       House Chair of Redistricting. And on my  
9       left is Mr. Dorman Walker. Mr. Walker is an  
10      attorney and works for the Redistricting  
11      Committee. And Mr. Walker will be your  
12      hearing officer today. Every ten years the  
13      census is done in order not only to count  
14      people and find out what the numbers are in  
15      each district but to find out where the  
16      people are living in each district. Ten  
17      years ago we redistricted, and we had ideal  
18      district sizes at that time. And people  
19      move. They move in; they move out. And we  
20      get away from the concept of one person, one  
21      vote. And so the purpose of redistricting  
22      is to go back and redraw the lines to  
23      reestablish the ideal numbers for each  
24      district. This Committee, Redistricting  
25      Committee will be concerned with, of course,

1     redistricting the Alabama Senate, Alabama  
2     House, the State Board of Education, and the  
3     Congressional districts. You are here with  
4     us, and we welcome your comments and your  
5     testimony, and your suggestions on how we go  
6     about doing this, and what you would like to  
7     see done in your area. We establish an  
8     ideal number for House and Senate districts,  
9     and the others as well. On the House --  
10    everybody coming online, please mute your  
11    microphone and turn your camera off. You'll  
12    have a chance to participate in this after  
13    folks in the audience speak to us live. An  
14    ideal Senate district is 143,551, and an  
15    ideal House district is 47,850. So, what  
16    happens is districts change over time, and  
17    it's our job to go back and make the lasso  
18    bigger or smaller to get to the correct  
19    number. To give you an idea of some House  
20    and Senate districts in your area and what  
21    has happened with the population, for  
22    example, Senate 22 has lost about -- it's  
23    about 7,600 under the ideal amount. Senate  
24    32 is about 33,600 over. Senate 34 is  
25    about 5,500 over. So, those districts where

1 they've got more people than they need, we  
2 have got to rearrange the lines. Now, one  
3 thing that can happen is a district can end  
4 up after we do the census count and they  
5 have about the right number of people in it,  
6 and you would think we wouldn't have to mess  
7 with that district, but what happens is that  
8 the adjacent district might have a big  
9 increase or decrease in population. So,  
10 when the lines shift on one district, it's  
11 bound to affect an adjacent district. As  
12 far as the House districts in your area --  
13 let's see here. 64, House 64 is up by 4,600.  
14 66 -- that is yours, Representative Baker --  
15 is down by about 1,600. 92, House District  
16 92 is down by 3,200. These are round  
17 numbers. 3,200. 94, that is Representative  
18 Faust, is up by 11,600. 95 is up by 14,600  
19 people. 96 is up by 8,300. And 98 is down  
20 by 5,300. So, you can see there is major  
21 changes. This is no surprise. We saw it  
22 coming, and you saw it coming, too. There  
23 is big, big changes down at that end of the  
24 state, and our job is to get those back in  
25 balance. Let me introduce to you State

1 Representative Chris Pringle. Chris?

2 REPRESENTATIVE PRINGLE: Thank  
3 you, Senator. It's a pleasure to be with  
4 you. It's a pleasure to see so many  
5 distinguished friends in the audience. I'm  
6 glad you could join us. Today we will call  
7 you to speak in the order in which you  
8 signed up. Each speaker will be limited to  
9 three minutes. If you need more time, at the  
10 end, we'll come back and around and let you  
11 speak. When called, please come to the  
12 microphone, clearly state your name and  
13 spell it, and identify which community you  
14 represent or which district or districts you  
15 would like to speak about. If you decide  
16 you would like to speak but have not signed  
17 up, at the end we will ask anybody who would  
18 like to come forward and speak. If you are  
19 participating remotely, send your questions,  
20 and we will read them into the record. This  
21 hearing is being transcribed by a court  
22 reporter working remotely. If you have  
23 something you would like to introduce into  
24 the record or an exhibit, bring it to the  
25 microphone with you and leave it with the

1 hearing officer in the room. They will get  
2 that to us, and we will have it entered into  
3 the permanent record of this Committee.  
4 Today's public hearing is on the issue of  
5 redistricting. We're not here to discuss  
6 any issue pending before the Legislature  
7 outside of that one particular issue. So,  
8 please keep all your comments germane to  
9 that. With that, I'm going to turn it over  
10 to Mr. Dorman Walker, who will be your  
11 hearing officer. Thank you for attending.

12 MR. WALKER: Thank you,  
13 Representative Pringle, and thank you,  
14 Coastal Alabama, Fairhope campus for hosting  
15 this. Thank you for those of you who are  
16 attending in the auditorium today and  
17 attending online. Your participation is  
18 important. It's important for the  
19 Legislature to hear what you have to say  
20 about how the lines should be drawn. Before  
21 we start taking testimony today, I want to  
22 go over with you the process that the  
23 Legislature is going through and also go  
24 over with you some of the rules that the  
25 Legislature has to follow as it draws

1 districts. Senator McClendon talked about  
2 ideal population. If you're not familiar  
3 with that term, it's simply the new state  
4 population, which I'm going to say is 5  
5 million. It's a little more than that, but  
6 let's just round it to 5 million. Divided by  
7 the number of districts at issue. So, if  
8 you're trying find the ideal population for  
9 the Senate, you divide 5 million by 35  
10 because we have 35 Senate districts. If you  
11 want to find the ideal population for the  
12 House, you do 105. And, of course, 8 for  
13 the State Board of Education, 7 for  
14 Congress. So, going back to the Senate, if  
15 you divide the state's population by the 35  
16 districts, you get the ideal population of  
17 143,551. So, ideally, after redistricting,  
18 every Senate district should have 143,551  
19 people in it, except, fortunately, the  
20 Legislature has allowed itself a little  
21 leeway. And it can vary from that ideal  
22 population for the House, Senate, and State  
23 Board of Education districts by 5% either  
24 above or below. So, the Legislature can  
25 populate a Senate district anywhere from

1 136,373 to 150,759. -729. Excuse me. And  
2 that leeway allows the Legislature the  
3 ability to accommodate traditional  
4 districting objectives, such as preserving  
5 the integrity of political subdivisions,  
6 maintaining communities of interest, and  
7 creating geographically compact districts.  
8 Congressional districts do not have the same  
9 latitude. They must be drawn as equally as  
10 possible. I'm not sure if it was Senator  
11 McClendon or Representative Pringle that  
12 said this is our next to the last hearing.  
13 We have been doing hearings since the 1st of  
14 September. All of the hearings are being  
15 transcribed by a court reporter. And those  
16 transcripts will be posted online fairly  
17 soon. All you do if want to see them is  
18 Google "Alabama Legislature," and there  
19 will be a tab for reapportionment. I know  
20 what we are really doing is redistricting,  
21 but the word "reapportionment" somehow got  
22 in there long ago, and that is what we're  
23 stuck with. "Reapportionment," click that,  
24 and you will get to a series of folders, one  
25 for each hearing. You can read the



1 transcript of the testimony received at that  
2 hearing, as well as look at any exhibits  
3 that were received at that hearing. In  
4 addition, there will be a folder for other  
5 comments that were received not in  
6 connection with the hearing, and you can see  
7 those comments, too. I will just say that  
8 if you're participating here today, if  
9 you're in the auditorium or participating  
10 remotely, now is the best time to give us  
11 your comments. However, if you want to  
12 submit something separately, the sooner you  
13 do that, the better, if you want somebody to  
14 look at it. Right now members of the State  
15 Board of Education, the Congressional  
16 staffers, and legislators are meeting with  
17 our map drawer and talking about their  
18 districts. And that is something that  
19 requires a high degree of coordination  
20 because one district may need to lose  
21 population, and there needs to be a  
22 determination made of what makes sense for  
23 that district to shed, and there are a lot  
24 of factors that go into that, while some  
25 adjoining districting may need to gain or

1 may also need to shed. No single district  
2 can act alone, if you will. There has to be  
3 coordination among them that has to be  
4 worked out. But, ultimately, there will  
5 come forth Congressional, State Board of  
6 Education, and legislative plans from the  
7 Committee. And when Governor Kay Ivey calls  
8 a special sessional for redistricting, I  
9 imagine that those bills will be prefiled  
10 and you can go -- once the special session  
11 is called, you can go to the legislative  
12 website and look at those prefiled bills if  
13 you want to. There will be other people,  
14 other legislators also that will be  
15 submitting bills. We know that, for  
16 example, Senator Singleton has said that he  
17 is going to sponsor a draft bill for the  
18 Congressional districts. It's a bill that,  
19 of course, has seven Congressional  
20 districts, does not split any counties,  
21 varies from ideal population by about 2.44%,  
22 which is unusual, and does not have any  
23 majority black districts, instead has  
24 districts that one has about 40% black  
25 voting age population, and the other a 45%

1 black voting age population. So, it has the  
2 opportunity for there to be two members of  
3 the Alabama delegation who are the candidate  
4 of choice of black voters, but it doesn't  
5 necessarily guarantee that. And there will  
6 be other legislators who introduce other  
7 plans, too. If you have a plan that you  
8 want to be considered, you're welcome to  
9 submit it. However, if you want it to be  
10 considered by the Legislature as a whole,  
11 you need to get a legislator to sponsor that  
12 and introduce it as a bill. When the  
13 special session is called, the Legislature  
14 will convene, and there will be committee  
15 hearings about the bills. My understanding  
16 at the time is that those will be public.  
17 People who are vaccinated will not need to  
18 mask. People who are not vaccinated can  
19 attend but must mask. That, of course,  
20 could change. But in addition, those  
21 hearings will be live streamed, as will the  
22 legislative session itself. So, that is the  
23 process we're in. Next, I would like to  
24 talk about the rules that the Legislature  
25 has for drawing districts. It can't simply

1 draw them any way it wants. It has to  
2 comply with the requirements of the federal  
3 and state Constitution and federal and state  
4 law, as well as it has to comply with  
5 race-neutral redistricting criteria that the  
6 Legislature has adopted for itself. So,  
7 let's go over what those are. Foremost and  
8 non negotiable are two: One is one person,  
9 one vote, which is a fancy way of saying  
10 that after redistricting all of the  
11 districts must have identical population if  
12 they're Congressional, or near identical  
13 population if they're State Board of  
14 Education or legislative. And in addition,  
15 the Legislature will not pass any  
16 redistricting plan that it understands  
17 discriminates on the basis of race, color,  
18 or membership in a language minority group.  
19 And if you wonder where that phrase comes  
20 from, it comes from Section 2 of the Voting  
21 Rights Act, which is the workhorse,  
22 antidiscrimination provision of the Voting  
23 Rights Act. In addition, no district will  
24 be drawn in a manner that subordinates  
25 race-neutral criteria -- and I'll go over

1     what those are in a second -- to  
2     considerations of race, color, or membership  
3     in a language minority group, except that  
4     race, color, or membership in a language  
5     minority group may predominate over  
6     race-neutral redistricting criteria if there  
7     is a strong basis in evidence to do so in  
8     order to comply with Section 2. The Supreme  
9     Court has defined a strong basis in evidence  
10    as a good reason to believe that race must  
11    be used in order to satisfy the Voting  
12    Rights Act. Now, the race-neutral  
13    districting criteria that the Legislature  
14    has adopted are not really unique to  
15    Alabama. You can find almost all of these  
16    in other states around the nation. Some  
17    states have slightly different versions or  
18    have rules that are unique to those states  
19    or the interest of those states. But  
20    generally, Alabama's version of guidelines  
21    are what you would find in almost any other  
22    state. And they include a requirement that  
23    districts be reasonably compact. That is a  
24    relative term. Obviously, a Congressional  
25    district is going to be much larger than a

1 House district, but both have to be compact  
2 within the context of their plans. Another  
3 is that all districts should be drawn to  
4 reflect the democratic will of the people.  
5 That is one of the reasons for these  
6 hearings and why your participation is so  
7 important, so that the Legislature can have  
8 input from the people about how those  
9 districts should be redrawn. Districts are  
10 drawn on the basis of total population. The  
11 census gives us lots of different ways of  
12 reporting information about the population.  
13 We could get, for example, the population of  
14 all people who work in forestry or all  
15 people who have graduate degrees or all  
16 people who are of a certain age. But we  
17 don't use that. We use the broadest  
18 classification of population the census  
19 gives us, which is the total population of  
20 the state or of a district on census day,  
21 April 1, 2020. And that, obviously,  
22 includes a lot of people who can't vote,  
23 such as minors, or people who are not yet  
24 eighteen, people who have lost the ability  
25 to vote because they have committed certain

1 crimes, people who are residing in Alabama  
2 but are not citizens, or people who are not  
3 citizens of the United States. So, even  
4 though many of these people can't vote, by  
5 long tradition, total population is used to  
6 draw districts, although at times we will  
7 look at voting age population, that is the  
8 population eighteen and older, as necessary  
9 to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights  
10 Act. The Legislature has to draw 35 Senate  
11 districts, and it has to draw 105 House  
12 districts, although the Constitution would  
13 allow us to have 106 House districts. All  
14 districts are single-member districts. That  
15 means from each district only one person is  
16 elected. In other places in the country,  
17 there are multi-member districts from which  
18 multiple people can be elected from the same  
19 district. We don't have that. Another one  
20 of the criteria is that contests between  
21 incumbents will be avoided whenever  
22 possible, and contiguity among districts is  
23 required, which means every point on the  
24 boundary of a district must be tangent to a  
25 point of another district or one of the

1 Alabama boundaries. Contiguity across water  
2 is allowed. So, for example, if we have a  
3 district that spans Mobile Bay, the fact  
4 that it doesn't physically connect doesn't  
5 mean it's not contiguous, because contiguity  
6 across water is allowed. Districts shall  
7 respect communities of interest,  
8 neighborhoods, and political subdivisions to  
9 the extent practicable. A community of  
10 interest is defined as an area with  
11 recognized similarities of interest,  
12 including but not limited to ethnic, racial,  
13 economic, tribal, social, geographic, and  
14 historical identities. Under certain  
15 circumstances, the term "communities of  
16 interest" may also include political  
17 subdivisions, such as counties, voting  
18 precincts, municipalities, tribes, and  
19 reservations -- tribal lands, and  
20 reservations, and school districts. The  
21 discernment, weighing, and balancing of the  
22 varied factors that contribute to  
23 communities of interest is an intensely  
24 political process best carried out by  
25 elected representatives of the people. Let



1 me just add that perhaps among the most  
2 helpful testimony that the Committee can  
3 receive is testimony that you might be able  
4 to give about communities of interest that  
5 need to be respected when lines are  
6 redrawn. Districts should be reasonably  
7 compact, and districts should be drawn to  
8 contain the minimum amount of counties. In  
9 addition, the Legislature will try to  
10 preserve the core of existing districts. In  
11 establishing legislative districts, the  
12 Reapportionment Committee and the  
13 Legislature give due consideration to all of  
14 these criteria, but as indicated, the two  
15 overarching and non negotiable criteria are  
16 equality of population and  
17 nondiscrimination. In addition, among the  
18 race-neutral districting criteria, there may  
19 be times when those conflicts, and the  
20 Legislature will have to at its own  
21 discretion determine which one takes  
22 priority. We're ready now to receive public  
23 comments. I will start first with the  
24 people that are in the auditorium at Coastal  
25 Alabama, Fairhope, and then I will see if

1 anyone who is online wants to make a  
2 comment. If you're online and you want to  
3 make a comment, please raise your hand or  
4 send in a comment by chat, and it will be  
5 read into the record. And then I will go  
6 back again and see if anybody wants to speak  
7 before closing the hearing. The first  
8 person who has indicated they want to speak  
9 is -- I think it's Ms. Sonenstein. I can't  
10 read the first name. Forgive me. If you  
11 would, come up to the -- before you speak,  
12 let me ask, are there any members of the  
13 media present in the auditorium? If there  
14 are, would you identify yourself? We just  
15 like to have some idea about coverage. Yes,  
16 sir. What media do you represent?

17 FROM THE FLOOR: (Inaudible).

18 MR. WALKER: We couldn't quite  
19 hear you.

20 FROM THE FLOOR: Al.com.

21 MR. WALKER: Oh. Okay. Thank you.  
22 All right. Ms. Sonenstein? Are any media  
23 online? If you are, please send in a  
24 message by chat. Yes, ma'am. Would you  
25 mind spelling your first and last name?

1 MS. SONENSTEIN: I would be happy  
2 to. It's Freya, F-r-e-y-a, last name  
3 Sonenstein.

4 MR. WALKER: I'm so sorry.

5 MS. SONENSTEIN: No problem.  
6 It's something I experience all the time.  
7 Good afternoon. I want to start by  
8 thanking the Coastal Community College and  
9 the Committee for hosting these hearings  
10 where you will hear the concerns of our  
11 residents regarding the redistricting  
12 efforts following the release of the 2020 US  
13 census. I grew up in Baldwin County, and I  
14 retired here close to a decade ago. And I'm  
15 speaking today for the League of Women  
16 Voters of Baldwin County. The League of  
17 Women Voters is a non partisan organization  
18 that does not endorse specific candidates or  
19 political parties. Our vision is to empower  
20 all voters and to defend democracy. As  
21 Alabama faces the challenges of  
22 redistricting, we ask you to make sure that  
23 the Congressional districts are fairly  
24 drawn. And we would ask you to have them  
25 conform to the following mandated criteria:

1 That they're substantially equal in  
2 population, geographaically connected, and  
3 they respect communities of interest and the  
4 integrity of municipalities and counties.  
5 And I know you have already said that is  
6 what you plan to do and are mandated to do.  
7 And you have defined what communities of  
8 interest are. Over the past seventy years  
9 since I first lived here in Baldwin County,  
10 it's undergone a massive transformation.  
11 Increasingly, many of the farms and orchards  
12 have turned into housing for newcomers  
13 attracted to the quality of life of Baldwin  
14 County. My own father and mother built one  
15 of the first houses in the Spanish Fort  
16 development that foretold what the future  
17 would be here. This trend has continued  
18 unabated, and the headlines for the 2020  
19 census are that Baldwin County has  
20 experienced massive growth. And you have  
21 noted that in some of the growth of the  
22 population in some of our legislative  
23 districts. Baldwin County was the fastest  
24 growing county in Alabama, and the seventh  
25 faster growing county in the US. Clearly,

1     these populations shifts will mean that you  
2     will need to reconsider the boundaries for  
3     our Congressional District Number 1.  
4     Certainly, there will no longer be a need to  
5     add a portion of Clark County to the  
6     district. As you propose a new  
7     Congressional map for Alabama, we urge you  
8     to correct the inequities in the current  
9     map. Our Congressional map districts are  
10    not compact. They do not follow county  
11    boarders as Constitutionally prescribed, and  
12    the strangely shaped District 7 appears to  
13    have packed as many people of color into a  
14    single district to ensure minority  
15    representation in that district but weakens  
16    minority and voting influence elsewhere in  
17    the state. Seven counties are split in the  
18    Congressional map, and it doesn't seem to be  
19    a coincidence they include two of the most  
20    popular cities in Alabama: Birmingham and  
21    Montgomery. Surely, residents of a single  
22    city and its surrounding metropolitan area  
23    are a community of interest that should not  
24    be split up. The League of Women Voters of  
25    Baldwin County endorses a whole county

1 approach to redrawing the Congressional  
2 map. This approach will correct some of the  
3 current challenges to fair representation in  
4 our state and provide all Alabama citizens  
5 with better opportunity to participate fully  
6 in the democratic process. Thank you for  
7 the opportunity to provide this testimony.

8 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Ms.  
9 Sonenstein. You've read your comments into  
10 the record, but if you want to also to put  
11 your written document there into the record,  
12 give it to a coordinator there at the  
13 auditorium, and it will be attached as an  
14 exhibit to the transcript. You don't have to  
15 do that, but just if you want to, you may.

16 MS. SONENSTEIN: I will be happy  
17 to do that.

18 MR. WALKER: Thank you. Just to  
19 follow up on your comments, I note that  
20 Baldwin County's population increased over  
21 the last ten years by just shy of 50,000  
22 people and a little more than 25%, which is  
23 a huge increase. The next person to speak  
24 is Representative Bradley Byrne.

25 REPRESENTATIVE Byrne: Thank you,

1 Chairman McClendon, Chairman Pringle.  
2 Thanks for doing this across the state of  
3 Alabama. Thanks for being with us today. So,  
4 I have represented District 1 in the Alabama  
5 State School Board, District 32 in the  
6 Alabama State Senate, and District 1 in the  
7 US House of Representatives. I would like to  
8 speak to each one of those. Let me start  
9 with the state Senate seat. I know that that  
10 Senate district has grown dramatically.  
11 Supposedly it's designed to keep a community  
12 of interest together that involves people  
13 that live along the Baldwin County coastline  
14 from the eastern shore down to our beach  
15 communities in the southern part of the  
16 county. They do form a community of  
17 interest, and as difficult as it's going to  
18 be to try to keep that community of interest  
19 together, I would ask that the Committee and  
20 the Legislature do so. So many issues that  
21 involve those areas are common. Now, there  
22 are some differences. I understand that.  
23 But the commonalities far outweigh the  
24 differences, and I hope that the Committee  
25 and the Legislature will take those into

1 account. Let me talk about the  
2 Congressional district. I understood what  
3 the lady said before. I love my old  
4 Congressional district. I hate to see any  
5 part of it taken away, but I understand  
6 there has been enough growth in Baldwin  
7 County that it affects the Congressional  
8 district, and there may have to be some  
9 changes. Let me plea for this: Mobile and  
10 Baldwin County need be kept together, and  
11 they need to be kept whole. It would be  
12 very difficult for a Congressman from  
13 another area, particularly someone that  
14 might have to come from Birmingham, through  
15 Tuscaloosa, through Selma, to stay on top of  
16 the myriad of issues that are so important  
17 down here in this part of the state. So, I  
18 ask the Committee and the Legislature to  
19 keep District 1, Mobile and Baldwin County  
20 in District 1, together and whole, and as  
21 many of the present counties and places in  
22 those counties kept in the district as  
23 possible. It's a good district. There is a  
24 genuine community of interest among those  
25 areas as you represent somebody in the



1 United States House of Representatives. And  
2 I think if you could keep that as much  
3 together as you possibly can, that would  
4 serve the people of this area well. Let me  
5 come to the third one, which is the 1st  
6 District on the State School Board. If I  
7 had known the Legislature was going to make  
8 the changes they made to that district last  
9 time, I would have come to this hearing and  
10 spoken out then. I think the Legislature  
11 made a tremendous mistake when they drew  
12 District 1. District 1 now has somebody  
13 that represents part of it that comes from  
14 Montgomery all the way into Mobile County.  
15 Now, part of the job of being a State School  
16 Board member is you have to stay in close  
17 contact with each of your local school  
18 districts and the schools in those  
19 districts. So, we now have more than one  
20 person representing the Mobile County School  
21 District on the Alabama State School Board.  
22 The Mobile County School District is the  
23 single largest school district in the state  
24 when it comes to student population. It  
25 takes an enormous amount of time to stay in

1 touch with that district. I know. I did it  
2 for eight years. And I think it's a  
3 tremendous mistake to have somebody from  
4 Montgomery trying to do that. I'm not  
5 picking on the person from Montgomery who is  
6 doing it. I would say this about anybody.  
7 It's almost impossible to figure out how  
8 somebody can keep up with all that is going  
9 on in the Mobile County district and the  
10 rest of the that district together. So, I  
11 would plead with the Committee, plea with  
12 the Legislature to go back to the old  
13 boundaries for District 1, which were all of  
14 Mobile County together, all of Baldwin  
15 County together, and all of Escambia County  
16 together. That district works. There is a  
17 true community of interest there. I do not  
18 think that there is a community of interest  
19 there the way it is presently drawn. Once  
20 again, gentlemen, I appreciate what you are  
21 doing. I think this is the right thing, to  
22 let the people of this state speak out. Mr.  
23 Walker is well-known around the state as a  
24 tremendous lawyer in this area. He will  
25 give you great advice. I look forward to

1 working with you in the days to come as you  
2 do this very important job. Thank you.

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you,  
4 Representative Byrne. There is no one else  
5 in the auditorium who has signed up to  
6 speak. Is there anyone else who would like  
7 to speak at this time even if you didn't  
8 originally sign up to speak? Okay. Come  
9 forward, sir.

10 MR. WAKELEY: (Inaudible) Good  
11 afternoon, Representative Pringle, Senator  
12 McClendon. Good to see you both. Can you  
13 hear me (inaudible)?

14 MR. WALKER: It might be better  
15 you took off your mask. You're a little  
16 muffled.

17 MR. WAKELEY: Is that a little  
18 better?

19 REPRESENTATIVE PRINGLE: Take you  
20 mask off.

21 MR. WALKER: I think you should  
22 remove your mask, if you don't mind.

23 MR. WAKELEY: It's a  
24 little contrary to organizational policy.  
25 The reason I'm here is to talk about a

1 couple of things, actually. One of them  
2 is -- if you have the map in front of you,  
3 I would love to talk to you about a couple  
4 of districts specifically. Districts 66 and  
5 64 on the House map are really elongated. I  
6 think they fall afoul of the compactness  
7 consideration. And, actually, in District  
8 66, the quickest way to get from one end to  
9 the other to it is to drive two hours  
10 through Florida. It is really, really  
11 elongated. And y'all are going to have  
12 plenty of opportunity to sort of make that a  
13 little more of a compact district as things  
14 go on, and I would suggest that you do so.  
15 The second part, you'll be less likely to  
16 hear -- you'll be less likely to want to  
17 hear. And I would like to say that some of  
18 the residents of Districts 66 and 64 would  
19 probably be a little more likely to be able  
20 to make this meeting -- this is mostly  
21 Fairhope residents and a few folks from  
22 Mobile, from my understanding. But a lot of  
23 those folks would be more likely to make  
24 this meeting if it were after working hours.  
25 So, I would encourage you -- I know you have

1 heard that many times already during these  
2 hearings. I would encourage you to take  
3 that under further consideration for next  
4 redistricting committee. Thank you.

5 MR. WALKER: I think you stated  
6 your name when you began, but we couldn't  
7 understand it. Would you mind stating your  
8 name and spelling it for the court reporter?

9 MR. WAKELEY: Sure. Dev, D as in  
10 delta, E as in echo, V as in Victor.  
11 Wakeley, whiskey, alpha, kilo, echo, lima,  
12 echo, yankee. Thank you.

13 MR. WALKER: Thank you very much,  
14 and thank you for your comments. Is there  
15 anyone else in the auditorium who would like  
16 to speak at this time? If so, please  
17 come forward. Okay. I don't see anybody, but  
18 we have a number of people who are attending  
19 remotely. Is there anyone attending remotely  
20 who would like to speak?

21 MS. OVERTON: There are no  
22 questions or comments, but we do have two  
23 members of the media that have put in their  
24 names in the chat.

25 MR. WALKER: Okay.

1 MS. OVERTON: The first one is Guy  
2 Busby, editor of the Courier Gulf Coast  
3 Media. The second one is Gabrielle  
4 (inaudible) and I will spell this rather  
5 than to butcher it. L-a-

6 MR. WALKER: Langan (phonetic.)

7 MS. OVERTON: Langan.

8 MR. WALKER: Thank you for your  
9 coverage, you two media members, as well as  
10 the person who is in the auditorium. All  
11 right. One last call for anybody who wants  
12 to speak in the auditorium, Wave your  
13 hand or stand up. Yes, ma'am. Please come  
14 forward. Welcome.

15 MS. CADELL: Thank you.

16 MR. WALKER: Would you state your  
17 name?

18 MS. CADELL: My name is Barbara  
19 Cadell.

20 MR. WALKER: Okay. Could you --

21 MS. CADELL: I live in Mobile  
22 County. And I spoke at the Mobile County  
23 version of this hearing. I want to thank  
24 you all for extending yourselves to have  
25 this many hearings. However, it's my

1 understanding and I want to be clear that  
2 you are not going to have anymore hearings  
3 specifically for school board, state school  
4 board, or other state legislative districts  
5 when you have the legislative session. When  
6 the special session is called, will it be a  
7 three-in-one where all three maps will be  
8 presented?

9 MR. WALKER: When the session is  
10 called, it will be for the purpose of  
11 passing the Congressional plan, the State  
12 Board of Education plan, the legislative  
13 House plan, and the legislative Senate  
14 plan.

15 MS. CADELL: It will be an  
16 all-in-one special session?

17 MR. WALKER: All four of those  
18 maps have to be passed in this special  
19 session in order to be ready for the  
20 elections next year.

21 MS. CADELL: So, you're not  
22 (inaudible). These are kind of complicated  
23 situations.

24 MR. WALKER: I'm sorry, ma'am.  
25 You're not -- you got cut off.

1 MS. CADELL: I just want to be  
2 clear. Thank you.

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you. Is there  
4 anyone else who is attending remotely who  
5 would like to speak? Last chance.

6 MS. OVERTON: Felicia says, "I  
7 know in prior meetings we were told that the  
8 special session would be broadcast online."

9 MR. WALKER: Yes. As I said  
10 earlier, it will be live streamed.

11 MS. OVERTON: "Will there be  
12 options for virtual comments?"

13 MR. WALKER: Not for the session.  
14 Anybody else? Okay. Thank you very much  
15 for attending either in person and remotely.  
16 Your participation is important to the  
17 process. This hearing is closed.

18  
19 (Hearing concluded.)  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25



CERTIFICATE

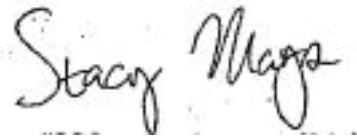
STATE OF ALABAMA

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing proceedings were taken down by me in stenotype, and the questions and answers thereto were reduced to computer print under my supervision, and that the foregoing represents a true and correct transcript of the testimony given by said witness upon said hearing.

I further certify that I am neither of counsel, nor of kin to the parties to the action, nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said cause.

Signed the 8th day of October, 2021



Stacy Mays

Alabama CCR #229. Expires 9/30/2022

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